the finalization of Memoranda of Understanding between stakeholders for setting up RBHs. A joint RBH Council, comprising representatives of the Government, Cll and eminent individuals working in this area, has been constituted for monitoring the process and reviewing the actions.

(d) Ministry of Panchayati Raj is working on a scheme for computerization of Panchayats under the National e-Governance Plan in close coordination with the Planning Commission, the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology. In consultation with this Ministry, State-Governments are to take into account their individual initiatives in this regard, as also to understand and fill in gaps, needs and constraints in e-Governance for Panchayats.

Women reservation in panchayats

3555. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States having and not having elected three tier panchayats;

(b) the percentage of women reservation prevailing in the panchayats, State-wise;

(c) the details of the powers delegated to the panchayats by each State; and

(d) the names of' the States where the gram panchayats are instructed to take suggestion for gram-samsad'?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) All States/UTs to which the Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992 applies, except Jharkhand and Pondicherry have held elections and constituted Panchayats in accordance with the provisions of Part IX of the Constitution. Those States with population of less than 20 lakhs are required to constitute only two types of Panchayati Raj Institutions.

(b) Article 243D of the Constitution provides that not less than one-third of the total number of seats in every Panchayat shall be reserved for women including Chairpersons in every Panchayats and such seat may be allotted by rotation to different Constituencies/Panchayats at

each level. The percentage of women representatives in Panchayats is as under:—

Panchayat Level	Number	Elected Representatives	Women Percentage
District Panchayats	537	11,825	41%
Intermediate Panchayats	6,097	1,10,070	43%
Village Panchayats	2,34,676	20,73,715	40%

(c) and (d) The information is being obtained from the States and would be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

Panchayati Raj meets

3556. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are organising Panchayati Raj meets aH over the country;

(b) if so, the details of such meet organised so far;

(c) the expenditure incurred for this purpose since the present dispensation took over charge; and

(d) what are the major findings of these conferences?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The Ministry of Panchayati Raj was set up on 27 May 2004. After the Ministry was set up, a Conference of Chief Ministers and State Ministers in charge of rural development and Panchayati Raj on "Poverty Alleviation and Rural Prosperity through Panchayati Raj" was organized in New Delhi on 29-30 June 2004, jointly by the Ministry of Rural Development and the Ministry of Panchayati Raj. Issues relating to effective implementation of Part IX and IX A of the Constitution on Panchayati Raj were tabled as agenda for discussions by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj. In this Conference, a decision was taken to hold seven Round Table Conferences to formulate a draft action plan towards achieving the objective of strengthening of Panchayati Raj Institutions to enable them to emerge as institutions of self-government for the planning and implementation of programmes of economic development and social justice as envisioned in the Constitution.